

memory **102** (as shown, for example, in FIG. 4A). The CPU **101** also reads a selected relation criterion (here, a keyword) stored in the selection criterion area **401b**. Then, the CPU **101** displays information on the display device **105** in accordance with a value of the scores of similarity in contents to the specified information and with the selected relation criterion (step S301).

[0173] Next, the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the up direction key of the input device **104** (step S302). If there is an input from the up direction key (“Yes” at step S302), the CPU **101**, in accordance with a direction input from the direction key, changes another item of information relating to the present specified information **1100** via the selected relation criterion to the new specified information **1100** (step S303). Next, the CPU **101** stores the changed selection condition of the specified information **1100** and the selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer **410** in the history buffer **400** (shown, for example, in FIG. 4A), and moves the pointer **410** to the subsequent history storage area (step S304). The CPU **101** searches for items of information that included the same keywords as those of the changed specified information **1100** for each of the keywords (step S305). Then, the CPU **101** calculates a score of similarity in contents to the specified information **1100** for each of the items of information searched out (step S306) and returns to the process in step S301.

[0174] If there is no input from the up direction key (“No” at step S302), the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the left or right direction keys of the input device **104** (step S307). If there is an input from the left or right direction keys (“Yes” at step S307), the CPU **101**, in accordance with the direction input from the direction key, changes a keyword to serve as the selected relation criterion to another keyword included in the present specified information **1100** (step S308). Next, the CPU **101** stores the selection condition of the specified information **1100** and the new selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer **410** in the history buffer **400**, and moves the pointer **410** to the subsequent history storage area (step S309). Then, the CPU **101** returns to the process in step S301.

[0175] If there is no input from the left or right direction keys (“No” at step S307), the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the X-button of the input device **104** (step S310). If there is an input from the X-button (“Yes” at step S310), the CPU **101** returns the pointer **410** to a history storage area immediately previous to the history storage area indicated by the pointer **410** in the history buffer **400** provided in the main memory **102**. By returning the pointer **410** to the previous history storage area, the display mode of the display device **105** is returned to the previous condition in history (step S311).

[0176] The CPU **101** determines whether the specified information to be changed is the same as the changed specified information (step S312). If they are the same (“Yes” at step S312), the CPU **101** returns to the process in step S301. On the other hand, if the items of information are not the same (“No” at step S312), the CPU **101** searches for items of information that include the same keywords as those of the changed specified information **1100**, and this search is conducted for each keyword (step S313). Then, the

CPU **101** calculates a score of similarity in contents to the specified information **1100** for each of the items of information found (step S314), and returns to the process of step S301.

[0177] If there is no input from the X-button (“No” at step S310), the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the square button of the input device **104** (step S315). If there is an input from the square button (“Yes” at step S315), the CPU **101** stores an item of information, which is selected as the specified information **1100** at the present time in the specified information area **420a**, in the bookmark buffer **420** (shown, for example, in FIG. 4B) provided in the main memory **102**. The CPU **101** also stores a relation criterion, which is selected as the selected relation criterion at the present time, in the selection criterion area **420b** (step S316). Then, the CPU **101** returns to the process in step S301.

[0178] If there is no input from the square button (“No” at step S315), the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the triangle button of the input device **104** (step S317). If there is an input from the triangle button (“Yes” at step S317), the CPU **101** reads specified information stored in the specified information area **420a** in the bookmark buffer **420** and a selected relation criterion stored in the selection criterion area **420b**, and makes a change to the read specified information and selected relation criterion (step S318). Next, the CPU **101** stores the changed selection condition of the specified information **1100** and the selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer **410** in the history buffer **400**, and moves the pointer **410** to the subsequent history storage area (step S319).

[0179] The CPU **101** determines whether the specified information to be changed is the same as the changed specified information (step S320). If they are the same (“Yes” at step S320), the CPU **101** returns to the process in step S301. On the other hand, if the items of information are not the same (“No” at step S320), the CPU **101** searches for items of information that include the same keywords as those of the changed specified information **1100**, executing the search for each keyword (step S321). Then, the CPU **101** calculates a score of similarity in contents to the specified information **1100** for each of the items of information found (step S322), and returns to the process in step S301.

[0180] If there is no input from the triangle button (“No” at step S317), the CPU **101** determines whether there is an input from the circle button of the input device **104** (step S323). If there is an input from the circle button (“Yes” at step S323), the CPU **101** carries out a process according to the present specified information **1100**. As this process has no direct relationship to the invention, a detailed description will be omitted. If there is no input from the circle button (“No” at step S323), the CPU **101** returns to the process in step S301.

[0181] As described heretofore, in the third embodiment, the specified information **1100** is displayed in an upper portion of the display device **105** and, of the items of information including the same keywords as those of this specified information, items of information having close similarity to the specified information **1100** are displayed close to the specified information **1100**. At this point, taking the case in FIG. 11 as an example, for each of the keywords